

Maine Revised Statutes
Title 35-A: PUBLIC UTILITIES
Chapter 23: UTILITY FACILITIES IN THE PUBLIC WAY

§2305-B. CONSTRUCTION OF TRANSMISSION AND DISTRIBUTION LINES

1. Transmission and distribution utilities. A transmission and distribution utility may construct and maintain its lines in, upon, along, over, across or under the roads and streets in any municipality in which it is authorized to supply electricity, subject to the conditions and restrictions provided in this chapter and chapter 25.

[2001, c. 110, §2 (NEW) .]

2. Persons other than transmission and distribution utilities. A person other than a transmission and distribution utility may not construct or maintain electric lines, including poles or other related structures, in, upon, along, over, across or under a road, street or other public way unless:

A. The person satisfies the requirements of section 2503; [2001, c. 110, §2 (NEW) .]

B. The person or the person's contractor hired to construct the line provides to the applicable licensing authority a performance bond:

(1) In the amount of the value of the line, including poles or other related structures, to be located in the public way; and

(2) That is enforceable for one year from the date the line is energized; [2001, c. 110, §2 (NEW) .]

C. Prior to constructing the line, the person notifies the transmission and distribution utility in whose service territory the line is proposed to be built of the proposed location of the line; and [2001, c. 110, §2 (NEW) .]

D. If a public utility objects to the line on the basis that it may constitute a duplication of existing transmission or distribution facilities or may interfere with the adequate and safe delivery of electricity to others, the commission issues a finding that the line is not a duplication of existing transmission or distribution facilities and does not interfere with the adequate and safe delivery of electricity to others. A finding is not required under this paragraph unless a public utility has objected in writing to the applicable licensing authority. [2001, c. 110, §2 (NEW) .]

[2001, c. 110, §2 (NEW) .]

3. Recording. A public utility that enters into any written agreement with the owner of a facility with regard to that facility shall record that agreement in the registry of deeds in the county in which the facility is placed.

[2001, c. 110, §2 (NEW) .]

4. Maintenance. The owner of a line located in, upon, along, over, across or under a road, street or other public way is responsible for properly maintaining the line and complying with lawful directives of the applicable licensing authority. If the owner of a line fails to maintain a line properly or to comply with directives of the applicable licensing authority and the applicable licensing authority incurs any expense in maintaining the line or pays any damages as a result of the owner's failure to maintain the line properly or to comply with the directives of the licensing authority, the licensing authority may assess the owner of the line the amount of those actual costs. The assessment must be in writing and must specify the amount of the assessment, the basis for the assessment and that a lien will be created on the real estate of the owner of the

line if the assessment is not paid within 90 days. If the owner of the line does not pay the assessment within 90 days, a lien is created on the real estate of the owner of the line situated in the municipality to secure the payment of actual costs incurred by the applicable licensing authority. This lien may be treated and enforced in the same manner as a tax lien under Title 36, chapter 105, subchapter IX, article 2. In addition to any other available remedies, a person aggrieved by a lien imposed or enforced by a licensing authority under this subsection may bring an action in Superior Court for a determination of the validity of the lien.

[2001, c. 110, §2 (NEW) .]

5. Energizing lines. A transmission and distribution utility may not deliver electricity over any line in, upon, along or under a road, street or other public way if the lines or related structures were constructed by a person other than a transmission and distribution utility unless the transmission and distribution utility is provided with certified copies of applicable permits required under section 2503. A transmission and distribution utility may not refuse to deliver electricity over a line if:

A. The owner of the line reimburses the transmission and distribution utility for the cost of connecting the line to the utility's system; and [2001, c. 110, §2 (NEW) .]

B. The line meets the transmission and distribution utility's standards, provided those standards are no different from the standards the utility applies to its own lines. [2001, c. 110, §2 (NEW) .]

[2001, c. 110, §2 (NEW) .]

SECTION HISTORY

2001, c. 110, §2 (NEW) .

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